BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1951

Service Services

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### THE REDUCAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1951

September 1952

To the Mayor Aldermen Councillors Cowbridge Borough Council

The Welsh Board have requested that the Annual Report for 1951 be prepared in accordance with Circular 42/51 (Wales). I beg, therefore, to submit the report on the lines indicated.

The general health of the residents of the Borough has been satisfactory with no notifications of infectious diseases reported during the year. The population, according to the Registrar General's estimate has fallen by 21 to 1069. The population in the Borough over the past years has been almost stationary and this is probably due to the limited land available for development. The birth rate of 13.10 is the lowest in the admininstrative county and 2.40 below the figure for England and Wales. The death rate of 12.16 is slightly lower than the average for urban areas in Glamorgan and almost equivalent to the average for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate of 71.43 is the highest in Glamorgan and far above the average for England and Wales. This is explained by the fact that in the Borough the figures are as small and one death is responsible for this high figure.

The joint sewerage scheme with the Cowbridge Rural Area has proceeded a step further and will probably go to tender early in 1952. The Sanitary Inspector conducted a survey of the existing drainage systems which is reported in the body of the report.

The Council's housing scheme at the Limes was completed and 20 more houses were occupied, four were re-housed from condemned properties making a total of 15 houses dealt with in this manner since the end of the war. The Council have received provisional plans for further houses at the Limes. These should relieve still further the housing problems in the Borough. It is hoped that some of the remaining low grade houses will be dealt with as a result of this scheme.

The Council have made arrangements for the Mass X Ray Unit to visit the Borough during the year. The response of the inhabitants was fairly good and a detailed report is included in the body of the report.

The Council dedided to take advantage of an offer to provide litter bins throughout the town, but owing to certain difficulties bins have not yet been fixed.

The Council decided to adopt a suggestion of the Ministry of Food to provide food premises with notices regarding Dogs in food shops. They also resolved to adopt Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 relating to the handling of foods.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Officials of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

G. MCKIM THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

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### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Borough of Cowbridge comprises an area of 84 acres, almost the whole of which is developed for housing or roads, on the main as highway from London to Fishguard. It is a very ancient Borough formed in its present state probably early in the 13th century and at this period was ranked in Glamorgan as second only to Cardiff. It has not developed to any considerable extent and for the past 100 years the population has been almost static over this period.

The Borough is the natural centre of the fertile Vale of Glamorgan and the principal industries are clearly connected with agricultural pursuits such as agricultural merchants, agricultural engineers and shops and professional offices which specialise in country requirements.

Public mains water supply is available throughout the area and a house to house refuse collection is carried out at weekly intervals. Electricity is also provided in all parts of the area. The drainage, unfortunately, is totally inadequate and generally insanitary.

There are no large factories in the area. The factories which are here engage a small number of employees some of whom are members of the owners' own families.

A list of the factories registered with the Council are as follows:-

- 1. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
- 2. Messrs. D. Brown and Sons. Ltd., Printers.
- 3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons, Ltd., Builders Yard.
- 4. Messrc. Robert Thomas & Sons, Ltd., Do
- 5. Messrs. Thomas & Morgan & Sons, Ltd., Brewers.
- 6. Mr. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietor.
- 7. Mr. R. O. Jones.

- Do
- 8. Cowbridge Gas Co., Gas Holder.
- 9. Mr. A. H. Jones, Garage Proprietor.
- 10. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.

### SECTION "A"

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (In acres)								
	EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS	OF TH	YEAR					
Live Births	Births registered - 195	51						
		_		m. tol				
		Male	Female	Total				
	Legitimate live births Illegitimate live births	5 <u>-,</u>	8 1	13 1				
		5	9	14				
Still Births					-			
DOLLI DIL CHE	<u> </u>	Male	Female	Total				
	Legitimate still births Illegitimate still births	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	_			
		Nil	Nil	Nil				
Birth Rate p	perll,000 Population				_			
Cr	ude Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough		13.10					
	rth Rate for England and Wales rth Rate for Administrative County of		15.5					
Gl	amorgan		16.32					
	rth Rate for Urban Area in the lministrative County		16.69					
Infant Morta	ality							
	mber of deaths under 1 year of age		1					
Ir	nfant mortality rate for Cowbridge per	?	77 17					
Ir	.000 births nfant mortality for England and Wales		71.43 29.60					
Ir of	36.92							
Ir								
(£)	Lamorgan		39.43					
Death Rate p	per 1,000 Population							
	rude death rate for Cowbridge Borough		12.16					
	eath rate for England and Walws eath rate for Administrative County of		12.50					
	lamorgan		13.78					

Glamorgan

Death rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan

13.78 14.45

The same of the sa 

### Causes of Deaths 1951

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Heart Diseases Vascular lesions of the nervous system Other causes	1 3 1 2	5 1	1 8 2 2
Total	7	6	13

### SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
WITHIN THE BOROUGH

### (a) Medical Officer of Health

restance to the second second

G. McKim Thomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health (Part time - holds appointments with Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils).

### (b) Sanitary Inspector'

Hubert Thomas M.R.Sam I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector. (Part time holds appointment with Cowbridge R.D.C.) Cortificate of Royal Camitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Camitary Institute.

### Ambulance Facilities

All ambulance services, including the removal of infectious patients, are carried out by the Glamorgan County Council as the local health authority operating the National Health Serlwes Act, 1947.

One ambulance is stationed at the Town Hall, Cowbridge,

### Hospitals

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. All hospitals are now administered by the Regional Hospital Board, Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgood although under regional sation specific cases may be admitted to other more convenient hospitals,

Medical and Surgical cases are admitted to any of the Doard's Hospitals in the area,

Maternity cases usually enter Bridgend Hospital.

### Laboratory Facilities

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Fealth Laboratory.

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### SANITARY CIRCUNSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply.

The Mid Glamorgan Water Board are the water undertakers in the Borough of Cowbridge. The Borough Council is a constituent member of this Board. With one exception, all houses in the Borough are commetted to the public mains. The supply is of a high bacterial quality and very hard. It is not subject to pumbo solvent action.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

The open air swimming pool on the outskirts of the Borough is not used to any extent during the year.

### Schools.

There are two schools within the area; one is the Cowbridge Grammar School and the other the Pontfaen Elementary School. The Cowbridge Grammar School, both at the school block and the Old Hall, is provided with water closets draining; in the main to cesspools. One drain, however, discharges almost crude sewage into the river.

Further representations were made to the Education Authority for the conversion of the existing earth closets at Pontfaen School into water closets. At the end of the year, there seemed to be an indication that an early start would be made upon this work. A scheme connecting to the Cowbridge Housing Estate sewage disposal plant has been prepared.

### HOUEING.

(e) New Council Housesl The Council completed the first stage of the Limes Housing Site during the year.

The progress made during 1951 is set out below:-

Houses completed during 1951 20
Houses authorised and commenced 1951 Nil
Houses erected and occupied by the Council
since 1918. 48

(b) Private Enterprise. One house was completed by private enterprise during the year, and occupied.

Selection of Tenants. The Council continued with the adoption of a points system for the selection of tenants. Under this system, the homes of the applicants were visited by the Sanitary Inspector and Borough Agent. In each case, the Council proceed to select the tenants and by this means the majority of the needy cases in the Borough were re-housed.

Demolition or Closure of individual houses. The following action was taken during the year in relation to the Closure of individual unfit houses.

1. Houses demolished during the year Nil

2. Houses subject to official undertakings, (tenants re-housed)

Housing progress since the end of the war: Since 1945 the Council has built 36 new traditional houses on the Limes Housing Site. 15 of the tenants were re-housed from condemned property in the town, the remainder were families housed in overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory conditions. The Council has selected their tenants in a very impartial manner and by their action have relieved most of the urgent housing needs in the Borough. The next stage in the housing programme should complete the immediate housing needs for replacements of unsatisfactory dwellings.

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### Plans.

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws:-

New houses, or conversion of buildings into houses	Nil
Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	2
Drainage work	2
Store or garages	2

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

- (a) <u>Refuse collection and disposal:</u> The collection of refuse is carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector by arrangements with the Cowbridge R.D.C., who use modern refuse freighters for this purpose. A once weekly collection is made from canteens and hotels. The refuse is disposed of on the Rural District Council's site at Llanmihangel, some three miles from the Borough.
- (b) Cesspool Emptying: The Borough Council has an arrangement for the use of the R.D.C. cesspool emptier within the Borough. The charge is recovered from the occupiers concerned.
- (c) Street Cleansing: The scavaging of the streets and highways in the Borough is carried out by the Borough Council.

### MILK SUPPLY.

It is pleasing to report that all samples of milk taken within the Borough during the year were found to be satisfactory. The majority of the milk now sold in the area is either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised). It is to be hoped that within a short period the whole of the milk sold will fall into one of these grades.

### Results of Samples taken, are set out below.

### (a) Samples of milk for Bacteriological Examination.

Designation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Samples of Pasteurised milk Samples of Tuberculin Tested	7	-	7
Milk	5	-	5
Samples of ungraded milk	5	Des	5
	17		17

- (b) Samples of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli: Six samples of milk were taken for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The result in each case was negative.
  - (c) Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949:-

Number	of	Distribut	tors	on	Register	5
Number	of	Dairies I	Regis	ter	red	Nil

(d) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:-

Number of Supplementary Licenses issued authorising the use of Special Designations

a) Pasteurised...... 2 Tuberculin Tested......2

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### OTHER FOODS.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 14).

Number of premises registered for manufacture and sale of sausages pressed, pickled and preserved foods	4
Number of premises registered for manufacture of icecream	2
Number of premises registered for sale of icecream	4

### ICECREAM.

There are only two registered manufacturers of icecream within the Borough. Each of these manufacturers have a properly constructed dairy together with modern plant. The two remaining retailers sell icecream prepared by one of the large manufacturers.

The results of the samples taken during the year are set out below:-

Provisional Grade	Provisional Interpretation	Number of Samples
1	Satisfactory	5
2	Fairly satisfactory	4
3	Unsatisfactory	Nil
4	Very unsatisfactory	2

The two very unsatisfactory samples were taken from a manufacturer in the town. It was not possible to take follow up samples in 1951 as person concerned ceased to manufacture iccoream during the winter months.

### INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOODS.

The following unsound foods were inspected and condemned during the year. Disposal of these foodstuffs was arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food. In the case of butchers' meat, this is normally returned to the Ministry of Food Slaughter House at Barry.

Class of Food	lbs.	ozs.
Home killed meat Home killed meat offal Timned meat Flour and cereals Butter Fruit	94 40 34 14 3	6 0 8 0 11 3
Total	195	12

### SHOPS.

No action was found necessary under this heading in the current year.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Borough Council is situated in the centre of a large agricultural community, and as there are no industries within the area, no serious atmospheric provision has been noted.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The consulting engineers have proceeded with the final preparation of the joint sewer for the Cowbridge Borough, Llamblethian, and Aberthin in the Rural District of Cowbridge. The tenders for this work will probably be abtained during 1952.

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### DRAINAGE.

	Disposal Works	Cesspools	Soakaways	To River	No Drain	Total
Private Dwellings	3€	114	45	83	31	309
Other Premises		25	2	15	12	54
TOTAL	36	139	47	98	43	363

### SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

	Water Closets (including hand flushed water closets.)	Pails	Vaults (including Middens.)		Total
Private Dwellings	163	40	106	-	309
Other Premises	35	5	1.	13	54
TOTAL	198	45	107	13	363

watt forter of . 1.5.1 - (†) to the same of a second Committee and the second second second second The Sanitary Inspector carried out a further survey of the existing conditions in the Borough during the year, to provide data for closet conversion and drainage connection to be included in the Bills of Quantities.

The following is a summary of the information obtained:-

(	a)	Number of	f closet conversion required	156
	b)		f houses requiring new closet buildings	79
(	c) a)	Number of	f connections to be carried out	316
(	a)	Number of	cesspools to be filled in	200

The existing sanitary system in the Borough has been referred to in these reports for very many years. Many of the older houses in the town, particularly those properties in High Street, are connected to the old town drain which discharges crude sewerage into the river. The majority of the houses on the southern side of Eastgate Street drain their slop water to the County highway drainage which discharges into the river without any form of treatment.

### SEWERAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The only sewage disposal plant operated by the Borough is for the new housing site recently developed at the Limes, Cowbridge is The works have functioned satisfactorily during the year. The sludge are moved by the District Council's cesspool emptier as the occasion demanded.

### DOMESTIC PESTS.

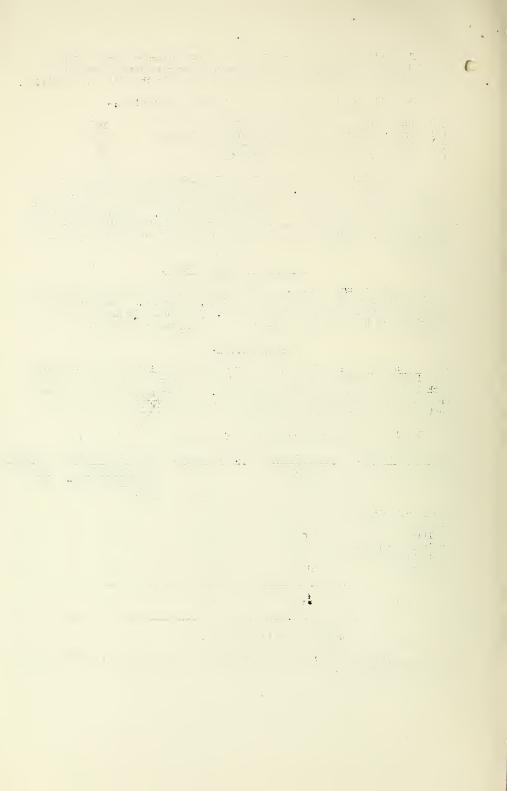
(a) Rodent Control: The methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for rat and mich destruction are adopted in the area. These methods have been found to be satisfactory. Private dwellings are treated free of charge and business premises are required to pay the whole of the cost of the labour and material used.

Details of the work carried out during 1951 are set out below:-

Type of Property.	Properties in Area.	No. Inspected.	Minor Infestation of rats or mice notified by occupier.	Treatment carried out.
Local authority premises Dwelling Houses Business premises	3 309 51	1 22 10	1 14 2	1 4 2
Agricultural property	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
To <b>t</b> al	363	33	7	7

There are no public sewers in this area.

<sup>(</sup>b) Bed bugs: - It was not found necessary to deal with any premises for bed bugs during the year.



### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The report on the action taken in connection with the Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Notices	
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Council.	3	7	Nil	
Factories where Section 7 is enforced by the Council.	7'	9	1	
Total	10	16	1	

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1951.

9	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	15 23	<del>-</del> 2	- Nil
Meat and Foods	23	_	_
Milk and Dairies	28	-	-
Housing	36	-	4
Public Health Act	75	-	-
Infectious Disease	2 1	-	-
Disinfections	15	1.	Nil
Factories and Workshops House Refuse	45	<u>.</u>	1/17
Water Supplies	5	_	_
Works in progress	35	_	-
Miscellaneous	10	-	-
Total	313	3	4

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### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Infectious Diseases.

It is pleasing to report that during the year there were no notifications of infectious disease within the Borough.

### Tuberculosis.

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year and there was one death from the disease. Details of the cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1951 are set out below:-

	NALES Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary			MALES Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
-	1	1	3	1	6

### MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE.

As the result of representations made to the Welsh Regional Hospital Board a mass radiography service was carried out in Cowbridge in the month of March, 1951. Prior to its arrival in the district the work of the unit was well advertised amongst the population of the parish by means of posters and the distribution of handbills to schoolchildren to convey to parents at home.

Having regard to the rural nature of this area the figures of attendance at the unit in this case were vary pleasing compared with reports of attendances in other areas.

A summary of the work of the Unit in the Cowbridge Centre includes particulars of examination of persons from the Cowbridge Rural and Borough Areas, as it was not found possible to keep separate records whilst the unit was in operation.

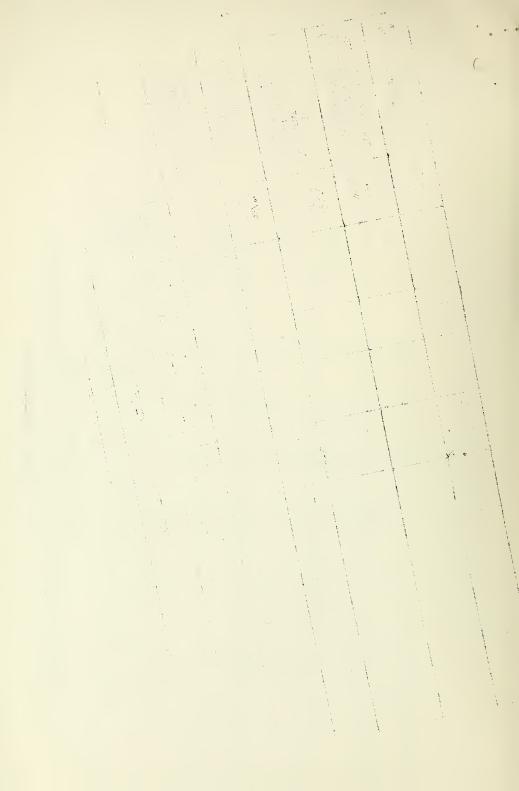
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MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

DEMAILS OF MASS MADIOCRAPHIC SURVEY OF COMBRIDGE GENERAL POPULATION, MARCH, 1951.

### TABLE 'A' - ANALYSIS IN ACE GROUPS

					3)
(c) Other Abnormalities of Chest	(b) Needing further Observation for Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Classification of Abnormal cases:- (a) Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Total Number to be found Abnormal	Total Number of Persons Examined. Mormal and Abnormal	
18 or 3.35%	1 or 0.19%	l or :	20 or 3.73%	536	GRAND TOTAL
	**			7 3	Under 15
Д 3			1 3	36 64	1524 M. F.
N		Ţ	1 2	48 79	25 - 34 II. F.
p-J	- Alexandria	وترسيبال مدهلين فيديد والمكارس	Р	45	1
W.			W	5 78	35 - 44 M. F.
			1	38	¥.5
Çi		30	3	83	45 - 59
3			3	25	60 and Over
N	Н		3	31	Over
5 13	1	Н	6 14	198 338	TOTALS



MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY OF COWBRIDGE SCHOOLCHILDREN, MARCH 1951

TABLE ' A ' - INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.

Cowbridge Gram.Jahool 120 120	Combride Kigh School 100	SCHOOL
120 120	100 100	TOTAL NUMBER EXAMINED Total Hale Female
5 5	8	TOTAL ABNORWAL Total Male Female
1	1	DEFINITE ACTIVE P.T. OBS.P.T. Other Abnormalities Total Male Female Total M.F. Total Male Female
+	20	OBS.P.T. Total M.F.
1	6 6	Other Abnormalitie Total Male Femal

# LASS RADIOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF COMBRIDGE GENERAL POPULATION, MARCH, 1951.

## TABLE B - DETAILS OF "OTHER ABNORMALITIES"

Failed to attend for large film		Substernal Thyroid	Eronchiec casis	Ineuroconiosis	Bronchi+is	Basal Fibrosis	Healed Post-Trimary P.T	Bony Abnormality	Healed Primary Complex	
) 		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
tend for		i	:	:	:	:	:		:	
large			:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
film		i	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
		i		:	:	:	:	:	:	
		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
1	18	7	Н	Н	Н	Н	a	ড	6	Total
Н	5	ı	ſ	Н	Н	1	1	Н	N	
	13	1	Н	ı	•	Н	N	4	4	Male Female

: k : . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .; . . . . The second secon - Philipse

### Cinemas.

There is one cinema in this area. This is constructed of permanent materials and during the year certain improvements were carried out in order to comply with the Cinematograph Act, 1909.

There are certain items of work outstanding here.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during the year.

### Swimming Baths.

The Borough Council own a swirming bath constructed on the bed of the River Thaw on the north of the town.

The bath was only occasionally used during the 1951 season.

 A Signal of the control All are a